

XXIII.—*A List of the Birds of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, based on the Collections of Mr. A. L. Butler, Mr. A. Chapman and Capt. H. Lynes, R.N., and Major Cuthbert Christy, R.A.M.C. (T.F.).* Part I. CORVIDÆ—FRINGILLIDÆ. By W. L. SCLATER, M.B.O.U., and C. MACKWORTH-PRAED, M.B.O.U.

(Plate IX.)

#### INTRODUCTION.

UP to quite recently the great collection of Birds in the Natural History Museum has been singularly deficient in material from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. This has recently been remedied by the donation of Mr. Butler of the large collection made by him during a long residence in that country.

Mr. Butler was appointed Superintendent of Game Preservation to the Sudan Government in 1901, and retained that post until he retired in 1915. During those years he made good use of his opportunities of collecting birds throughout the Sudan, and the collection presented to the Museum consists of over 3100 beautifully prepared skins. During his residence in the Sudan he published in 'The Ibis' a series of four "Contributions to the Ornithology of the Sudan" between the years 1905 and 1909, in which he described the habits and in many cases unravelled the taxonomy of many of the species he had met with, and these papers are all referred to in the present list.

We are much indebted to him for help in drawing up this paper and for notes of the occurrence of several species in the Sudan not contained in the collection presented to the Museum.

In the winter of 1913-14 Mr. Abel Chapman and Capt. Lynes, R.N., accompanied by Mr. W. P. Lowe, paid a visit to the Sudan for shooting big game and collecting birds. They landed at Port Sudan and proceeded thence to Khartoum; they spent a month or so on the Blue Nile

in Sennar Province, and then travelled slowly up the White Nile as far as Lake No and back. The collections made by them—which have been presented to the Museum and comprise nearly 1600 skins—are most valuable, as they paid great attention to the smaller and more obscure birds and everything was most carefully labelled.

It was the intention of Capt. Lynes to work out the collection himself, but since the outbreak of the war he has been continually on active service and has not been able to do more than to name a few of the birds. We owe our best thanks to Capt. Lynes for permitting us to make use of his collection in conjunction with that of Mr. Butler, and we hope that later on he will himself publish an account of his experiences and the very valuable field-notes which he made.

The third collection, from which the Museum is permitted to retain such specimens as they require, was made by Major Cuthbert Christy, R.A.M.C. (T.F.), during a recent journey made in connection with sleeping-sickness investigation along the southern border of the Bahr el Ghazal from Rejaf to Tembura (see 'Geographical Journal,' vol. 50, 1917, pp. 199–216, with map).

Major Christy was fortunate enough to secure the services of one of Mr. Butler's trained collectors, and made a valuable collection from a region hitherto never visited by an ornithologist.

We have therefore a very fine mass of material to deal with, and we decided to endeavour to make our paper a complete list of the Birds of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, which can perhaps be made use of later in order to prepare a Handbook for the use of residents and travellers in that region.

#### HISTORICAL.

It does not seem out of place to trace briefly the history of the ornithological exploration of the Sudan, but the list of names is a long one and only those of major importance can be mentioned.

The explorations of C. G. Ehrenberg and F. W. Hemprich hardly extended to what is now the Sudan but were confined to the coast of the Red Sea, though in their 'Symbolæ Physicæ' many Sudanese birds were first described.

Almost contemporary with them was the well-known Eduard Rüppell, who was born at Frankfort in 1794. He visited Egypt in 1817 and again in 1822-26, when his travels extended to Nubia and the Red Sea coast. His third journey in 1831-33 was to Arabia and Abyssinia. He discovered at least a hundred new species, and in his 'Systematische Uebersicht' published the first complete list of the Birds of north-east Africa.

Following Rüppell came the Hertzog Paul Wilhelm von Württemberg, who made zoological and botanical collections in Sennar and explored the Blue Nile in 1840-41, and the Swede, Dr. Hedenborg, who travelled in north Arabia, Sennar, and the lower White Nile valley, and whose collections were described by Sundevall.

The first English name on the list is that of John Petherick, who was British Consul at Khartoum for some years and travelled as far as Kordofan, where he made a collection of Birds which was worked out by Strickland. He also sent home the first living example of *Baleniceps* to the Zoological Gardens in London.

The Italian Marchese Orazio Antinori visited north-east Africa in 1859-61 and in 1870-71. His first journey was through Sennar to Kordofan and the Bahr el Ghazal; his second to Eritrea and Abyssinia. He himself published a good account of the birds collected on his first journey, and those of his second were reported on by himself with the aid of Count Salvadori. Another explorer of the same period was Dr. A. E. Brehm, whose travels however did not extend far beyond Khartoum.

It is, however, to Freiherr Theodore von Heuglin (1824-1877) that we owe the greatest advance of our knowledge of the birds of north-east Africa. Between the years 1849 and 1865 he wandered all over the whole of what is now the

Sudan from Egypt to the Bahr el Ghazal and the coasts and islands of the Red Sea, making large collections, which are now chiefly in the Vienna Museum, and copious notes on the breeding and other habits of the birds, all of which were finally embodied in his great work, 'Ornithologie Nordost-Afrikas.'

The only other name which should be mentioned in connection with the earlier exploration of the upper Nile valley is that of Emin Pasha, whose real name was Eduard Schnitzer (1840-1893). Appointed by Gordon Governor of the Equatorial Province of Egypt, he at once commenced sending collections of birds and mammals from Lado and other stations in his Province to Dr. Hartlaub of Bremen, who published a long series of papers on these, chiefly in the 'Journal für Ornithologie.' A considerable number of Emin's skins, beautifully prepared and labelled with the fullest particulars in his neat handwriting, are now in the British Museum collection, and form the basis of our knowledge of the avifauna of what is now partly the Mongalla Province of the Sudan and partly the Nile Province of the Uganda Protectorate.

From the time of the death of Gordon in 1885 to the Khartoum expedition of 1898, the Sudan was inaccessible to travellers and collectors.

Since the reoccupation and reopening of the Sudan under the protectorate of Great Britain, a great many travellers and collectors have visited the country; and a list of the more important papers published since that date will be found in the bibliography, including those of Mr. Butler and the earlier explorers.

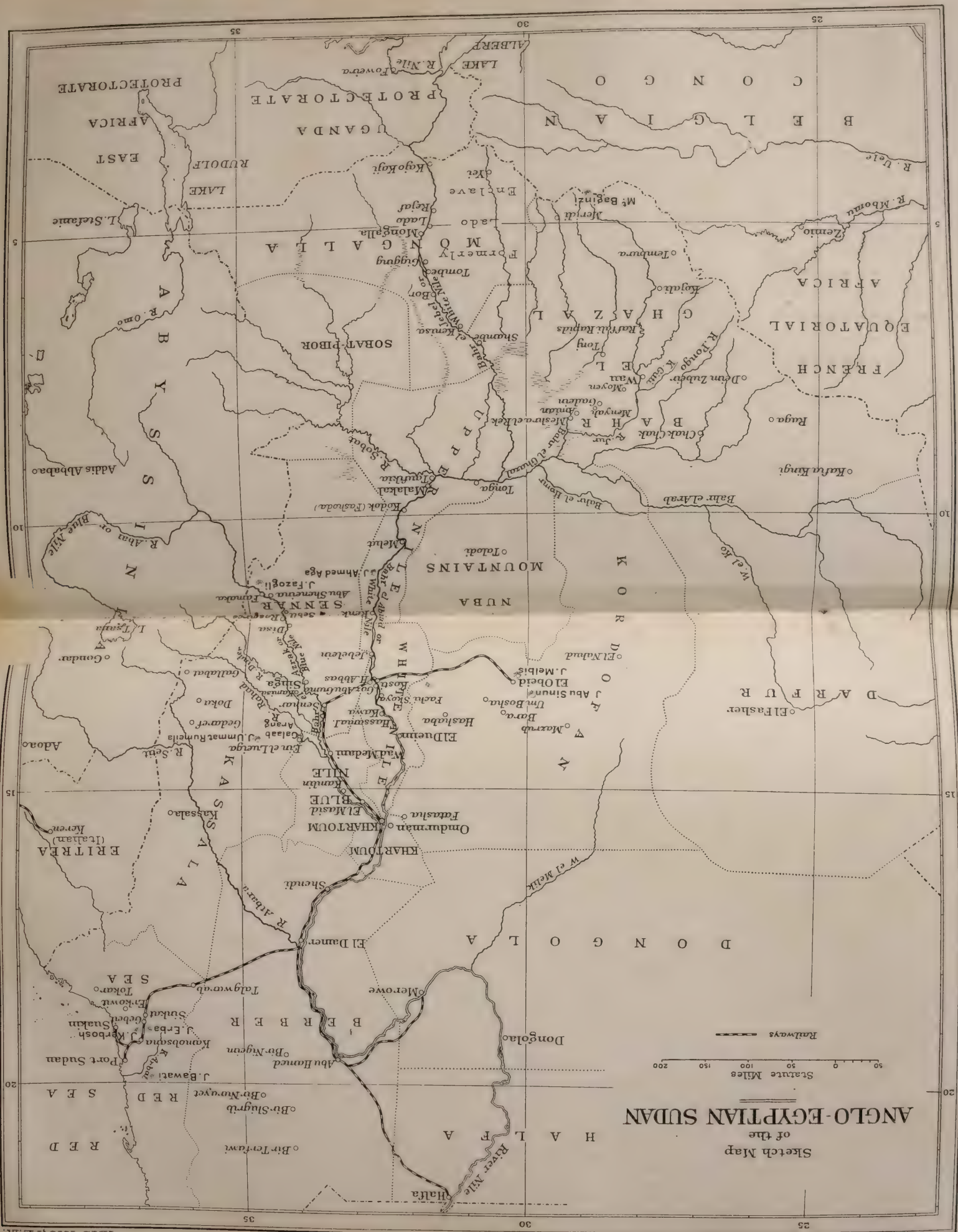
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ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN  
of the  
Sketch Map